GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:430
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2010
USE OF NAPTHA
Alagiri Shri S. ;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naptha (Acquisition, Sales, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order, 2000 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 seeks to prevent diversion and misuse of Naptha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases of adulteration of Naptha is on the rise;

(d) the number of cases lodged under the above Order during the last three years and the current year, year and State-wise;

(e) the details of conviction reported during the above period; and

(f) the steps taken for prevention of the adulteration of Naptha including making the provisions of Naptha Order, 2000 more stringent?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 430 for 26th August, 2010 asked by Shri Mansukh Bhai D. Vasava and Shri S. Alagiri regarding Use of Naptha.

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. Government have issued the Naphtha (Acquisition, Sales, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order, 2000 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 Vide G.S.R. 518(E) dated 5th June, 2000 to prevent diversion and misuse of Naphtha for adulteration.

(c) to (e): The possibility of mixing of Naphtha with petrol by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out owing to easy miscibility of Naphtha with petrol. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have informed that no case of established adulteration of Naphtha has been reported in past three years. However, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered six cases in current year for suspected diversion/ adulteration of Naphtha under Naphtha Control Order, 2000. CBI has reported that none of these cases has resulted in conviction so far. The state wise details of these six cases of suspected misuse of Naphtha are given in Annex.

(f): State Governments have been empowered to take action in the case of malpractices/irregularities under the Naphtha Control Order. In order to check adulteration, the Government has also taken a number of initiatives viz., Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Smart Card Scheme etc.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.